

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: REFLECTIVE OPTICAL DEVICE, AND REFLECTIVE SOLID-STATE OPTICAL DEVICE, AND IMAGING DEVICE, MULTI-WAVELENGTH IMAGING DEVICE, VIDEO CAMERA DEVICE, AND VEHICLE-MOUNTED MONITOR UTILIZING THE SAME

The specification of which

a. is attached hereto
 b. was filed on _____ as application serial no. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable) (in the case of a PCT-filed application) described and claimed in international no. PCT/JP00/00728 filed February 9, 2000 and as amended on September 4, 2000 and December 8, 2000, which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (attached hereto).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

a. no such applications have been filed.
 b. such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC § 119			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)
Japan	11-032881	10 February 1999	
Japan	11-128493	10 May 1999	
Japan	11-297123	19 October 1999	

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (Day, Month, Year)

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

Albrecht, John W. Reg. No. 40,481 Larson, James A. Reg. No. 40,443
Anderson, Gregg I. Reg. No. 28,828 Lasky, Michael B. Reg. No. 29,555
Ansems, Gregory M. Reg. No. 42,264 Liepa, Mara E. Reg. No. 40,066
Batzli, Brian H. Reg. No. 32,960 Lindquist, Timothy A. Reg. No. 40,701
Beard, John L. Reg. No. 27,612 Lynch, David W. Reg. No. 36,204
Black, Bruce E. Reg. No. 41,622 Marschang, Diane L. Reg. No. 35,600
Blasdell, Thomas L. Reg. No. 31,329 McDaniel, Karen D. Reg. No. 37,674
Bogucki, Raymond A. Reg. No. 17,426 McDonald, Daniel W. Reg. No. 32,044
Bruess, Steven C. Reg. No. 34,130 McIntyre, Iain A. Reg. No. 40,337
Byrne, Linda M. Reg. No. 32,404 Mueller, Douglas P. Reg. No. 30,300
Carlson, Alan G. Reg. No. 25,959 Nelson, Albin J. Reg. No. 28,650
Caspers, Philip P. Reg. No. 33,227 Pauly, Daniel M. Reg. No. 40,123
Chiapetta, James R. Reg. No. 39,634 Phillips, John B. Reg. No. 37,206
Clifford, John A. Reg. No. 30,247 Plunkett, Theodore Reg. No. 37,209
Cochran, William W. Reg. No. 26,652 Pytel, Melissa J. Reg. No. 41,542
Daignault, Ronald A. Reg. No. 25,968 Reich, John C. Reg. No. 37,703
Daley, Dennis R. Reg. No. 34,994 Reiland, Earl D. Reg. No. 25,767
Dalglisch, Leslie E. Reg. No. 40,579 Rittmaster, Ted R. Reg. No. 32,933
Daulton, Julie R. Reg. No. 36,414 Schmaltz, David G. Reg. No. 39,828
De Vries Smith, Katherine M. Reg. No. 42,157 Schuman, Mark D. Reg. No. 31,197
DiPietro, Mark J. Reg. No. 28,707 Schumann, Michael D. Reg. No. 30,422
Edell, Robert T. Reg. No. 20,187 Scull, Timothy B. Reg. No. 42,137
Epp Ryan, Sandra Reg. No. 39,667 Sebald, Gregory A. Reg. No. 33,280
Funk, Steven R. Reg. No. 37,830 Skoog, Mark T. Reg. No. 40,178
Glance, Robert J. Reg. No. 40,620 Soderberg, Richard Reg. No. P-43,352
Golla, Charles E. Reg. No. 26,896 Sumner, John P. Reg. No. 29,114
Gorman, Alan G. Reg. No. 38,472 Sumners, John S. Reg. No. 24,216
Gould, John D. Reg. No. 18,223 Tellekson, David K. Reg. No. 32,314
Gregson, Richard Reg. No. 41,804 Trembath, Jon R. Reg. No. 38,344
Gresens, John J. Reg. No. 33,112 Underhill, Albert L. Reg. No. 27,403
Hamre, Curtis B. Reg. No. 29,165 Vandenburg, J. Derek Reg. No. 32,179
Hillson, Randall A. Reg. No. 31,838 Vradenburgh, Anna M. Reg. No. 39,868
Holzer, Jr., Richard J. Reg. No. 42,668 Welter, Paul A. Reg. No. 20,890
Johnston, Scott W. Reg. No. 39,721 Wahl, John R. Reg. No. 33,044
Kadievitch, Natalie D. Reg. No. 34,196 Whipps, Brian Reg. No. 43,261
Kastelic, Joseph M. Reg. No. 37,160 Wickhem, J. Scot Reg. No. 41,376
Kettelberger, Denise Reg. No. 33,924 Williams, Douglas J. Reg. No. 27,054
Knearl, Homer L. Reg. No. 21,197 Witt, Jonelle Reg. No. 41,980
Kowalchyk, Alan W. Reg. No. 31,535 Wood, William J. Reg. No. 42,236
Kowalchyk, Katherine M. Reg. No. 36,848 Xu, Min S. Reg. No. 39,536
Kubota, Glenn M. Reg. No. 44,197
Lacy, Paul E. Reg. No. 38,946

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I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/organization who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Merchant & Gould P.C. to the contrary.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to Merchant & Gould P.C. at the address indicated below:

Merchant & Gould P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

2	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name <u>YOSHIKAWA</u>	First Given Name <u>Motonobu</u>	Second Given Name
0	Residence & Citizenship	City Osaka	State or Foreign Country Japan	Country of Citizenship Japan
1	Post Office Address	Post Office Address 7-9, Yuzato 1-chome, Higashisumiyoshi-ku, Osaka-shi		State & Zip Code/Country Osaka 546-0013/JAPAN <i>JPX</i>
Signature of Inventor 201: <i>Motonobu Yoshikawa</i>			Date:	July 31, 2001
2	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name <u>YAMAMOTO</u>	First Given Name <u>Yoshiharu</u>	Second Given Name
0	Residence & Citizenship	City Osaka	State or Foreign Country Japan	Country of Citizenship Japan
2	Post Office Address	Post Office Address 2-20-23, Miyayama-cho, Toyonaka-shi		State & Zip Code/Country Osaka 560-0056/JAPAN <i>JPX</i>
Signature of Inventor 202: <i>Yoshiharu Yamamoto</i>			Date:	July 31, 2001

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§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim;
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.